

**City of Fort Lauderdale
Community Services Board
August 10, 2015 – 4:00 P.M.
City Commission Chambers – City Hall
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301**

October 2014-September 2015

MEMBERS		PRESENT	ABSENT
Wendy Gonsher, Chair	P	7	0
Jasmin Shirley, Vice Chair	P	7	0
Benjamin Bean	P	6	1
Mark Fillers	P	6	1
Wanda Francis	P	7	0
Gwendolyn Haynes	P	4	2
Jason King	P	5	2
Chris Lovell	P	7	0
Richard Morris	P	3	0
Fred Roccanti	A	6	1
Noah Szugajew	P	5	0
Joseph S. Van de Bogart	A	5	1

Staff Present

Mario DeSantis, Liaison and Housing Administrator
Marcia Gair, Administrative Aide
Jamie Opperee, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communication to City Commission

None.

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- **Quorum Requirement – As of July 22, 2015, there are 13 appointed members to the Board, which means 7 constitutes a quorum**

Chair Gonsher called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll was called.

II. WELCOME / BOARD AND STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

The Staff members present introduced themselves at this time.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 13, 2015

Motion made by Ms. Francis, seconded by Mr. Szugajew, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 20, 2015

Motion made by Mr. Szugajew, seconded by Ms. Francis, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

V. 2015-2016 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Mr. Brown reported that the City Commission has approved the Board's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) recommendations as presented. He noted that the next fiscal year will begin on October 1, 2015.

Mr. DeSantis advised that monitoring of HOPWA agencies will be ongoing through September 30, 2015. He added that HOPWA provider Shadowood has submitted a transition plan and is working with City Staff to ensure that its clients will move to equal or better housing. Shadowood currently serves 21 facility-based and six project-based clients. The project-based clients have transferred to the tenant-based rental voucher (TBRV) program offered by Broward Regional. This transition is expected to be complete by October 1. City Staff is working with Broward House on the facility-based clients' transition.

VI. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Brown observed that the Board will need to hold elections for Chair and Vice Chair in advance of the new fiscal year. Changes will take effect on October 1. It was also noted that the Board's September 2015 meeting would need to be rescheduled, as it falls on the Rosh Hashanah holiday.

Motion made by Chair Gonsher, seconded by Vice Chair Shirley, to reschedule [the] September meeting. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

It was determined that the September meeting would be rescheduled for September 21, 2015. Mr. DeSantis stated that he would ensure the meeting would not be scheduled on a holiday the following year.

Motion made by Mr. King, seconded by Ms. Gonsher, to nominate Ms. Francis for Chair. In a voice vote, Ms. Francis was unanimously elected.

Motion made by Mr. King, seconded by Ms. Haynes, to nominate Ms. Shirley as Vice Chair. In a voice vote, Ms. Shirley was unanimously re-elected.

Mr. Brown addressed the issue of CDBG applications, asking what changes the Board would like to see made to this document. He noted that CDBG applications are typically advertised in January, with the Board to review applications beginning in March.

The Board members discussed the CDBG application, with Mr. King asking if a needs assessment was a possibility for applicants. Mr. Brown cautioned that it would be difficult for the City to carry out such an assessment due to funding; however, he noted that the City is working with Florida International University (FIU) to conduct a housing and economic analysis, which may address public services.

Mr. King asked if the City is receiving sufficient help from public service organizations to adequately assist the homeless. Mr. Brown replied that the Board may revisit CDBG priority categories if they wish; however, if these priorities change, they must first be presented to the City Commission to ensure that the Commission supports the changes.

Mr. Brown also advised that the Board may modify its funding cap for agencies, which is currently set at \$50,000, if they feel a particular issue should be a priority. He cautioned again that they would need to inform the City Commission of such a change. He also noted that the City has set aside \$100,000 from its Public Services funds to address issues affecting the chronically homeless.

Mr. Lovell asked if the Board could be provided with a list of the rules and regulations of the CDBG program, such as the \$50,000 funding cap. Mr. Brown clarified that these rules differ between categories: for example, rules governing issues affecting the homeless are different from the rules affecting child care or work-related organizations. Chair Gonsher confirmed, however, that these rules were enacted by the Board and are subject to change as the makeup of the Board and City Commission change.

Mr. Lovell explained that he was concerned that CDBG funding does not currently address all the needs it could, citing recent applicants who requested but did not receive funding for children's recreational activities. He recommended that the Board consider reaching out to the entire community to support different types of funding requests. Chair Gonsher replied that when the Board developed its rules, there were typically many more agencies applying for funds; the rules helped to narrow down the Board's decisions.

Mr. Brown pointed out that another reason for the rules was the necessity of paying back a significant amount of CDBG funds, which had not been administered appropriately at an earlier time. He agreed that some of the rules and regulations may have made some agencies less likely to apply for funds. Mr. Lovell agreed, recalling that some agencies did not receive funding because their applications were not filled out properly. He proposed that instruction be offered to agencies lacking experience in the application process.

Mr. Brown concluded that City Staff holds a free workshop for prospective applicants to review U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines, as well as providing additional support.

It was decided that the Board would discuss CDBG changes further beginning with the September 21 meeting, as well as conversations related to HOPWA. Mr. Brown advised that he expected year-end CDBG figures to be available at the November meeting. Mr. DeSantis added that final HOPWA figures would likely be available in December. The Board's schedule during the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays were also discussed.

Motion made by Mr. King, seconded by Mr. Fillers, to take December off. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patrice Paldino, representing Legal Aid of Broward County, advised that the City's acceptance of legal services into its HOPWA continuum of care was considered an innovation, as only three jurisdictions provided these services through HOPWA at the time. She has been invited to address the North American Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit in Washington, D.C., regarding the role of legal services in the continuum of care. She emphasized the critical importance of addressing collateral issues that affect housing, and encouraged the Board to keep this in mind when making HOPWA funding decisions in the future.

Ms. Paldino described some of the programs for which Legal Aid has provided models, including programs for veterans and other health care services. She concluded by asking that the Board consider restoring funding to Legal Aid if the opportunity arises in the future, as legal services can be critical to clients' success.

Mr. King requested clarification of which entity decides to cut funds from specific service categories. Mr. DeSantis replied that this was part of the City's RFP, which was recently amended and placed Legal Aid in its own funding category, limiting its funds to \$100,000. This means Legal Aid may now only provide housing services.

Mr. DeSantis stated that the Board had discussed allocation of funds for each category at previous meetings, and pointed out that clients in need of legal services that fit HOPWA criteria must be referred from other HOPWA agencies. Mr. Brown added that it was not the Board's intent to cut any services, as they recognize the value of Legal Aid: the reason was the continued reduction in Federal funds.

Vice Chair Shirley advised that the 2016 United States Conference on AIDS (USCA) will be held in Hollywood, Florida. She suggested that Legal Aid of Broward County could also provide a presentation at this upcoming conference.

VIII. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

It was noted that CDBG would be discussed further at the September meeting.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]